

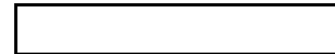
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10 April 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

no
USSR--Summit tactics: Although the USSR appears to recognize that the propaganda value of further letter exchanges is diminishing, it is still wary of moving into the preparatory talks phase without a firm commitment from the West for a summit meeting. First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov told Ambassador Thompson that failure to reach agreement in preparatory talks might result in cancellation of a summit meeting and that there would be "no difficulty" about exploratory talks if a date for a summit meeting were first agreed upon. Khrushchev told UN Secretary General Hammarskjold, during ten hours of talks in Moscow, that with respect to discussing German reunification or Eastern Europe he is not willing to "pay any price" for summit talks. [redacted]

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yes
USSR-Egypt: To underscore the importance which Moscow attaches to its relations with the UAR and to Nasir's forthcoming trip to Moscow, the Soviet ministers of agriculture and culture and the chief of the Main Directorate of Labor Reserves are in Cairo to arrange for carrying out existing economic and cultural exchange agreements. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Japan-USSR: In an effort to break the impasse in Japanese-Soviet fishery negotiations which has lasted since 20 January, Japanese Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Akagi is planning to send his delegation home from Moscow and attempt last-minute bargaining by himself, possibly with First Deputy Premier Mikoyan. Tokyo's bargaining position is weak, but the government's refusal to accept the Soviet proposals has received strong support from the Japanese populace. [REDACTED] (Page 4)

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Iraq-Jordan: Jordanian and Iraqi leaders appear to be letting slip even the small psychological advantages they obtained from the announcement of their Arab union. They are dealing in a strictly constitutional manner with the problem of creating central government organs, while Nasir continues to make relatively dramatic, well-publicized moves in connection with the UAR. [REDACTED] (Page 5)

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Algeria: The Algerian rebels have recently stepped up their urban terrorist attacks, especially in central and eastern Algeria. The selection of local Moslem officials who have been cooperating with the French as the principal targets suggests the rebels are making a determined effort to prevent implementation of the basic statute for Algeria, which offers some measure of autonomy but falls far short of the rebels' demands.

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DAILY BRIEF

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III. THE WEST

no *Cuba: The Cuban rebels' initial attempt to launch an "all-out war" against Batista and to call a general strike in Havana on 9 April ended in failure. After a plane flew over Havana dropping handbills exhorting the populace to "strike today," bombings, shooting and sabotage threw the city into confusion for more than an hour; however, workers who had left their jobs when violence broke out returned after their noon break, and the armed forces moved quickly to keep the situation under control. It is too early to judge the ultimate effects of this first abortive attempt. It is possible that Castro may suffer a loss of prestige for his failure to carry through his long heralded "final effort" against Batista. There is also, however, the possibility that the 9 April action was premature and that the major effort is yet to come. [REDACTED]

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Soviet-Egyptian Relations

The USSR is stepping up implementation of its \$175,-000,000 technical and economic cooperation agreement with Egypt on the eve of Nasir's visit to Moscow. Soviet Minister of Agriculture Matskevich, accompanied by the minister of agriculture for Uzbekistan, has arrived in Cairo to discuss the agricultural programs called for under the agreement. Soviet Minister of Culture Mikhailov, who is also in Cairo, announced on 8 April that the Soviet Union will open information offices in Egypt and that Egypt will set up similar offices in the USSR. The head of the Soviet Chief Directorate of Labor Reserves, G. I. Zelenko, is signing contracts this week in Cairo for the establishment of 15 vocational and technical training centers and for the delivery to them of Soviet equipment.

Egypt, for its part, is sending a delegation from the Ministry of Industry to Moscow this week to discuss importation of Soviet equipment and to negotiate contracts for the dispatch of Soviet experts to Egypt. The delegation will also discuss petroleum and mineral projects under the Soviet aid program. The General Executive Committee for the Egyptian Five-Year Plan has decided to establish a liaison bureau in Moscow.

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Japan Attempting High-level Solution of Deadlocked Fishery Talks With USSR

Japanese Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Akagi is planning to send his delegation home and attempt personal last-minute bargaining on a higher level in order to reach agreement in the deadlocked negotiations with the USSR over Japanese fishing rights in northwest Pacific waters for the 1958 season.

The annual talks, which this year began on 20 January, have failed to reach agreement on any major issue. The Japanese have rejected Soviet proposals which would severely limit salmon catches in the over-all restricted area and prohibit Japanese fishing in the Sea of Okhotsk, except for curtailed crabbing operations, as well as in broad expanses of Soviet-claimed offshore waters.

The USSR has rejected Japan's request for guarantees of safety for its fishermen operating in the vicinity of the Kuril Islands, and has made agreement on this issue contingent on resumption of peace treaty discussions. The Japanese have since avoided this issue in order not to jeopardize other fisheries questions.

Tokyo's bargaining position is weak but its opposition to Soviet pressure is receiving surprising Japanese popular support. This support, however, may tend to diminish as the salmon fishing season, which opens in May, approaches. Prime Minister Kishi regards this problem as one of three major foreign policy issues requiring settlement prior to elections expected in May. The other issues are the deadlock with South Korea and the dispute with Nationalist China as a result of the private trade agreement with Peiping.

Iraq-Jordan Union Problems

Internal politics in Jordan and Iraq may prevent formation for the nascent Arab union of a strong central cabinet, which Jordanian Foreign Minister Rifai considers essential for the ultimate success of the new state. Other recent comments by Rifai also suggest that the union may not be a going concern for "several months" beyond the mid-May target set when the union was provisionally established in mid-February. While Jordan and Iraq at that time moved swiftly to offset the fanfare given Nasir's UAR, their strictly constitutional pace since then has contrasted increasingly with Nasir's bold and dramatic moves to speed integration with Syria.

The union will evolve in a series of steps which include new parliamentary elections in Iraq on 5 May, approval of the new constitution on 10 May, formation of the union's parliament with appointees from the Jordanian and Iraqi legislatures, selection of the cabinet, and installation of King Faysal as head of state. On the basis of this schedule, the new state could not be constituted even on a formal legal basis before the first week in June. The union government even then would not be in a position to assume responsibilities now discharged by the individual states, particularly in defense and finance.

Jordan's chronic economic and security problems have again been highlighted by the Saudi decision for economy reasons to discontinue the \$14,000,000 annual subsidy and to reduce its 3,500-4,000 troops in Jordan. Although Iraq has agreed to pay 80 percent of the union's defense costs, Jordan will need Western aid to meet its share of the burden. A serious winter drought during Jordan's usual rainy season has already reduced the grain crop by one third and damaged grazing lands even more severely. Should April rains not materialize, the loss may run much higher. Although Iraq has surplus wheat, Rifai believes that it might be unwilling to deliver it as a gift, especially before the union becomes effective. [REDACTED]

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DAILY BRIEF

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